

centration on zoological examples. I don't agree with the editor's contention that only one good plant example (Irises) could be found. The chapters by Arnold and Bennett on Irises and by Rieseberg and Wendel on introgression, as well as the other three chapters from Part I of the book, are very worthwhile reading, but I'm not sure whether this warrants the purchase of the book. For researchers interested in the general phenomenon of hybrid zones across both the plant and animal kingdoms, this book might be a very worthwhile purchase.

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The Wild Orchids of California. By RONALD A. COLEMAN. Comstock Publishing Associates, Cornell University Press, 572 E. State St., Ithaca, NY 14850, USA, 1995, xvi, [i], 201 pp., 39 [i.e., 40] pp. pls. (col.), text ill. (B&W), ISBN 0-8014-3012-7 (HB), \$45.00.

Until now there never has been a book on the native orchids of California. Ronald A. Coleman's superb *The Wild Orchids of California* now rectifies this deficiency. He treats 11 genera, 33 species (all native but the alien *Epipactis helleborine*), and 3 hybrids (*Platanthera* × *estesii*, *P.* × *lassenii*, *P.* × *media*). The hybrids, a "Spiranthes undescribed" (p. 166), and the appropriately newly described *Piperia colemanii* Morgan & Glicenstein (*Lindleyana* 8:89, 1993) are not in *The Jepson Manual* (JM; 1993). Other differences from the JM's orchid part done by Dieter H. Wilken and William F. Jennings are Coleman's recognition of *Platanthera dilatata* var. *leucostachys* (in JM as *P. leucostachys*) and varieties for *Calypso bulbosa* (var. *occidentalis*) and *Corallorhiza trifida* (var. *verna*) (consistently, *Malaxis monophyllos* ssp. *brachypoda* in JM appears in Coleman as var. *brachypoda*).

Excellent color pictures (124 total) illustrate all 36 taxa Coleman accepts; all but the hybrids and undescribed *Spiranthes* have county distribution maps with a single dot for each county record. The floral vignettes prefacing the species accounts are more decorative than diagnostic. The only real orchid flower diagrammed is the generalized figure on page 5. The lack of meaningful drawings is a minor defect forcing overreliance on the color photos. The elaborate accounts are the heart of the book, indeed 135 pages for the 32 taxa treated (3 pages are on the hybrids and undescribed *Spiranthes*). Other than their etymology, extensive synonymy, and common names, the species accounts are in literary rather than telegraphic format, with detailed information for the morphological description, distribution, habitat, phenology, conservation, and (often) notes and comments. Bolding these subject headers would have made the information more accessible.

The introductory 27 pages discuss orchid structure, phenology and distribution of Californian orchids (with three tables, a two-page phenology table, and two maps), biogeography and climate of California, chief geographic areas of the state (with one map), and habitat protection. The introduction concludes with an unillustrated key to genera that is simpler and probably more useful than its counterpart in JM. Genera with more than one species also have keys. One appendix gives herbarium documentation for the Channel Islands and the 58 counties in California. Another appendix lists potential new county records as well as *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *makasin* and *Spiranthes infernalis* as potential new species for California. A concise glossary, ten-page bibliography, and detailed index finish this fine work.

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